

Application No. 10/605,988  
Amendment dated  
After Final Office Action of November 9, 2005

Docket No.: 60680-1765

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A piston ring assembly, comprising:
- an upper ring;
  - a lower ring;
- wherein a first portion of said upper ring is in contact with a corresponding first portion of said lower ring; and
- an expander positioned between corresponding second portions of said upper ring and said lower ring, said expander including apexes adapted to contact said second portions of said upper and lower rings;
- wherein radial compression of said upper and lower rings induces axial expansion of said expander.
2. (Previously Presented) A piston ring assembly according to Claim 1, wherein upon positioning the piston ring assembly within a ring groove of a piston, said axial expansion of said expander urges said upper ring against an upper surface of said ring groove and said lower ring against a lower surface of said ring groove.
3. (Original) A piston ring assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said upper ring includes a first shoulder recess about an inner periphery thereof and said lower ring includes a second shoulder recess about an inner periphery thereof, said first and second shoulder recesses defining a cavity to receive said expander.
4. (Original) A piston ring assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said expander is generally sinusoidal in shape and includes two ends defining an expander gap such that radial compression of said upper and lower rings mates said two ends thereby closing said expander gap and said mated two ends form a generally W-shaped configuration.
65. (Currently Amended) A piston ring assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said apexes of said expander are generally flat and are supported by two adjacent leg members such that an angle defined by said adjacent leg members is about 16 degrees.

DO NOT ENTER, VP, 12/30/05